



FORUM

Facts, Outcomes, & Research... Useful for Managing

OLDER OFFENDERS

BY ELIZABETH K. DRAKE

Washington State prisons are now and will continue to face the complexities associated with the growth of the older offender population (defined as offenders age fifty and older). As of June 2004, Washington State Department of Corrections had nearly 1,800 offenders who were fifty years and older. Older offenders accounted for 10.6 percent of the total prison population, which is a notable increase from 6.7 percent in fiscal year end 1993. Offenders are being admitted to prison at older ages, as well as growing older in prison.

Older offenders disproportionately use a large amount of the inmate health care resources. In late 2004, they accounted for 16 percent of on-site medical visits and 25 percent of off-site medical trips. Older offenders had 48 percent of the admissions to community hospitals, which, in turn, accounted for 51 percent of overall hospital costs. Older offenders make up between 40 to 50 percent of the Department's patients with cardiac conditions, hypertension, diabetes, and renal disorders. Approximately 70 percent of offenders over 50 years of age have multiple chronic conditions.

If you would like to learn more about the older offender prison population, the Budget, Research, and Strategic Planning Office recently published a new briefing paper. The paper presents information on our older offender population such as age at admission to prison, offense type, length of stay, and medical information. The paper is located on DOCNET at: <http://doc-wb3/usercontents/Research/BudgetAndResearch/studies.htm>, or contact our office at (360) 753-6180 for a hard copy.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION..

PUBLICATION OF THE MONTH

Beth Anderson, DOC's Health Services Administrator, has recently published a new article called "Managing Offenders with Special Health Needs: Highest and Best Use Strategies." It will appear in "Corrections Today" in early spring. Contact us if you are interested seeing the article upon its release.

WEB SITE OF THE MONTH

<http://www.chsa.ws/index.html>

Correctional Health Services Association provides practical information for health care professionals in dealing with a unique health care population.

DEFINITION OF THE MONTH

Cohort is "a group of individuals having a statistical factor (such as age or class membership) in common in a demographic study" (Webster's Online Dictionary.)

A cohort analysis is a "method used in studies to describe an aggregate of individuals having in common a significant event in their life histories, such as year of birth (birth cohort) or year of marriage (marriage cohort)" (Britannica Online Dictionary.)

DOC MONTHLY STATISTICS AS OF JANUARY 31, 2005

CONFINEMENT POPULATION	17,196
Total Confinement	15,638
Work Release	650
In State Rented Beds	374
Out of State Rented Beds	534
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS POPULATION	
ACTIVE SUPERVISION	29,080
RMA	7,891
RMB	6,861
RMC	2,450
RMD	10,262
Unclassified	1,508
MONETARY	326
INACTIVE STATUS	15,604

ESCAPES FROM SECURITY LEVELS 2-5, FOR FY05

	Date	Type	Return
Coyote Ridge CC	07/14/04	Facility	07/15/04
Olympic CC	08/13/04	Facility	-----
WCCW	11/04/04	Work Crew	11/04/04
Larch CC	12/20/04	Work Crew	01/30/05
Tacoma PR	01/19/05	Facility	-----

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Webpages, under Budget and Research, on the DOCNET homepage